

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing an electronic program guide (EPG) about a plurality of programs supplied through a digital broadcasting system,
5 comprising:
 - a service information receiver unit receiving service information transmitted from the digital broadcasting system and extracting the EPG information from the service information, and storing the EPG information;
 - an EPG processor converting the EPG information stored in the
10 service information receiver unit into speech EPG information; and
 - a speech output unit producing the speech EPG information as speech.
2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the EPG processor
15 converts the EPG information into characters and forms the same into sentences to produce the speech EPG information.
3. A system according to claim 2, wherein the EPG processor
converts the EPG information into colloquial sentences to produce the
20 speech EPG information.
4. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a user interface through which a user's request is input, and the EPG processor analyzes the request, extracts the information matched with the request by the user from

among the EPG information stored in the service information receiver unit,
and converts the extracted EPG information into speech EPG information.

5 5. A system according to claim 4, wherein the EPG processor
includes:

a control and command processor extracting the information
matched with the user requests from among the EPG information stored in
the service information receiver unit to produce tailored EPG information;

10 a text converter converting the tailored EPG information into speech
EPG information under the control of the control and command processor;
and

an interface providing the user's request, applied through the user
interface, to the control and command processor.

15 6. A system according to claim 4, wherein the EPG processor
performs speech recognition by analyzing a user speech signal applied
through the user interface and converting the user speech signal into a signal
recognizable and to be processed by the EPG processor.

20 7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the EPG processor
classifies the EPG information into higher-order and lower-order information,
respectively converts them into higher-order and lower-order speech EPG
information, outputs the higher-order speech EPG information to the speech
output unit to reproduce it as speech, and selectively outputs the lower-order

speech EPG information to the speech output unit in response to the user's request to reproduce it as speech.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the service information
5 receiver unit includes:

a tuner receiving a digital broadcasting signal transmitted from the digital broadcasting system;

a demodulator demodulating the digital broadcasting signal applied from the tuner to extract stream information;

10 a demultiplexer separating video, audio, data stream, and service information contained in the stream information from each other;

an EPG generator generating EPG information from the separated service information; and

a storage unit storing the EPG information.

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9. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a graphic output unit displaying the EPG information processed by the EPG processor.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein the EPG processor links
20 the EPG information output as speech through the speech output unit to the EPG information displayed through the graphic output unit, and controls the speech output unit and the graphic output unit so that the EPG information may be produced as speech simultaneously while being displayed.

11. A method of providing an electronic program guide (EPG) in a system for providing the EPG on a plurality of programs supplied through a digital broadcasting system, comprising:

(a) receiving service information transmitted from the digital
5 broadcasting system, and extracting the EPG information from the service information to store the EPG information;

(b) analyzing a user's request and extracting EPG information that meets the user's request from the stored EPG information to produce tailored EPG information;

10 (c) converting the tailored EPG information into speech EPG information; and

(d) reproducing the speech EPG information as speech to provide users with the EPG information.

15 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the step (c) converts the tailored EPG information into characters and forms the same into sentences to produce the speech EPG information.

20 13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the step (c) forms the EPG information into colloquial sentences to produce the speech EPG information.

14. A method according to claim 11, wherein the step (b) classifies the tailored EPG information into higher-order information and lower-order

information, and the step (d) converts the higher-order information and lower-order information into higher-order speech EPG information and lower-order speech EPG information, respectively, and reproduces the higher-order speech EPG information and the lower-order speech EPG information, sequentially.

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